

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 04530 312017Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 A-01 PRS-01 SAM-01

INR-07 /040 W

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P 311610Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1609

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SZ

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES

REF: BERN 4496

1. PRESS REACTION TODAY, OCT 31, HAS BEEN BASED ON REPORT OF THE ZEIGLER QUESTION AND FEDERAL COUNCIL ANSWER (REFTEL). THERE WAS ONE COMMENTARY ON THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE RADIO WHICH WAS BASED ON 24 HEURES' U.S. CORRESPONDENT POGET'S REPORTS, AND IN GENERAL FOLLOWED THE LINE REPORTED PARA 5 REFTEL.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS OF TWO TYPICAL ARTICLES AND A PART OF A THIRD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GAZETTE DE LAUSANNE: OCTOBER 31, 1975

EACH STATE IN PRINCIPLE IS FREE TO DESIGNATE ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN OTHER STATES. ON THE OTHER HAND THE ACCREDITING STATE MAY REFUSE AGREEMENT TO AN AMBASSADOR AND WITHOUT INDICATING THE REASONS. ACCORDING TO THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW THIS IS, HOWEVER, A VERY STRONG MEASURE WHICH IS RARELY TAKEN. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THESE CONSIDERATIONS AND AFTER EXAMINING THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO REFUSE THE AGREEMENT TO THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO SWITZERLAND, MR. NATHANIEL DAVIS.

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PAGE 02 BERN 04530 312017Z

THIS IS ESSENTIALLY THE ANSWER TO THE URGENT QUESTION IN WHICH NATIONAL COUNCILLOR JEAN ZIEGLER (SOCIALIST, GENEVA) ASKED WHETHER "THE VERY DISTURBING PAST" OF THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SHOULD NOT LEAD OUR GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE THE AGREEMENT.

IN HIS QUESTION, THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM GENEVA FINDS THAT MR DAVIS, U S AMBASSADOR TO CHILE IN 1973, HAD GREAT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, IN ENDING DEMOCRACY IN CHILE AND IN THE INSTALLATION OF A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHURCHES, HAS COST THE LIVES OF 30,000 PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, MR. ZIEGLER STRESSED IN HIS QUESTION THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF SENATOR CHURCH FOUND MR. DAVIS TO BE "AN AGENT OF THE CIA", THAT AFTERWARDS HE WAS IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN (SIC) AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) REFUSED TO WORK WITH HIM AND THAT HE HAD TO RESIGN FROM THAT POST.

IN ITS ANSWER, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL INDICATES THAT WHEN AMBASSADOR DAVIS WAS NOMINATED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LAST FEBRUARY, THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE EXAMINED THE ROLE HE PLAYED IN CHILE VERY THOROUGHLY. NOTHING CAME TO LIGHT WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM, AND THE SENATE APPROVED HIS NOMINATION. AND IT ALSO IS NOT TRUE, SAYS THE GOVERNMENT, THAT THE INVESTIGATION BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEADED BY SENATOR CHURCH HAD FOUND AMBASSADOR DAVIS TO HAVE BEEN A CIA AGENT.

B. BASLER NACHRICHTEN OCTOBER 31, 1975

AFTER RECEIVING AGREEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON WEDNESDAY ANNOUNCED THE NAME OF THE NEW US AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND: HE IS CAREER DIPLOMAT NATHANIEL DAVIS. IN ITS ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM PARLIAMENT THE FEDERAL COUNCIL YESTERDAY DISCUSSED THE REASONS WHY IT DID NOT OBJECT TO MR. DAVIS' NOMINATION.

APPARENTLY THE FORD GOVERNMENT IS NOT VERY LUCKY IN CHOOSING ITS AMBASSADOR FOR SWITZERLAND. PETER DOMINICK, THE LAST U S AMBASSADOR WHO RECEIVED HIS POST AS CONSOLATION FOR LOSING HIS SEAT IN CONGRESS, WAS INVOLVED IN AN EMBARRASSING INTERLUDE EVEN BEFORE THE OFFICIAL NOMINATION BECAUSE OF A REMARK HE MADE REGARDING THE CROSSING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERN 04530 312017Z

SWITZERLAND BY NATO PLANES AND SOON AFTER TAKING UP HIS POST HE HAD TO RESIGN FOR REASONS OF HEALTH.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR WHOM PRESIDENT FORD NOMINATED ON WEDNESDAY IS AN EXPERIENCED CAREER DIPLOMAT; BUT HE TOO HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS. FOR DAVIS WAS U S AMBASSADOR IN CHILE AT THE TIME OF CIA ACTIVITIES WHICH AIMED AT "DE-STABILIZING" THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT; ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD BEEN

SHARPLY DENOUNCED BY CONGRESS. FOR THIS REASON AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS PROTESTED AGAINST DAVIS' NOMINATION SOON AFTERWARDS AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS. KISSINGER WAS FURIOUS, REJECTED THE PROTESTS AS INTERFERENCE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF HIS MINISTRY AND CONGRESS ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION OF DAVIS. BUT AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF HIS NEW POST THE DIPLOMAT HAD TO ADMIT THAT IN VIEW OF THE ANIMOSITY AGAINST HIM HE COULD NOT DO A GOOD JOB. HE RESIGNED. NOW THE POST IN SWITZERLAND HAS BEEN FOUND FOR HIM.

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DAVIS WERE REGISTERED IN SWITZERLAND TOO. THUS THE FEDERAL COUNCIL RECEIVED THE INTERPELLATION OF A SOCIALIST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (SECONDED BY THE SWISS FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS) REGARDING THE MATTER. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL COUNCILLOR ZIEGLER (SOCIALIST, GENEVA) "DAVIS WAS RESPONSIBLE TO A LARGE EXTENT FOR THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, THE CRUSHING OF DEMOCRACY IN CHILE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FASCIST DICTORSHIP" AS WAS FOUND BY THE INVESTIGATIONS U S SENATOR CHURCH.

THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A TRANSCRIPT OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL'S RESPONSE.

C. THE FEDERATION OF THE SWISS TRADE UNIONS, WHICH STILL HAS RESERVATIONS, UNDERSTANDS HOWEVER THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL NOT TO DENY THE AGREEMENT. IN A STATEMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF THE SWISS TRADE UNIONS PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY IT SAYS THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT "MUST HAVE BEEN IN A DELICATE POSITION". THE FEDERAL COUNCIL WAS AFRAID, SUGGESTED THE TRADE UNIONS, THAT THE DENIAL OF AGREEMENT FOR DAVIS COULD HAVE BEEN HARMFUL TO RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN04530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750379-0027
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975103/aaaaacak.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 BERN 4496
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SZ, US, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006